

Tom; I have only Belin's representation, regard him as a psychopathic liar as well as psycho, but see no reason why he should have seen or been told of any of this. I fear the influences of the self-seekers, self-promoters so many of whom are secretly, as I have told you, Kennedy-haters. There was also some ego-tripping at the hearing. I'll write about it when I have time. I'll carbon you privately because your subcommittee has the same jurisdiction. If you want an earlier account, ask Jim Lesar, to whom I'm sending. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701 a carbon with this note. I am troubled about 11/22/73 motive and its potential. Best, HW

Mr. Tim Ingram, Staff Director  
Subcommittee on FOIA and Individual Rights  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

*Please return to  
Belin-debate file*

Dear Tim,

As you know, I have pleuritis and had a confrontation with David Belin at Vanderbilt University the night of 11/19. That morning I could not lace a shoe and that night I could not wear one. I was otherwise ill but went through with it although thereafter I required assistance even prior to getting on the plane to return.

Meanwhile, from our mailing on Post Mortem we have had the greatest single response ever. With no handicap, and my wife and I to do all this and other work I hope that you will take my writing you at all now as a measure of the seriousness of that of which I do write, which is not all I'd like to take up with you.

Last Saturday morning I received a call from the lecture bureau which books both Belin and me asking that I rush him a copy of Post Mortem. I did. He said Wednesday night that it reached his office just as he was leaving for Nashville. This was during dinner, when he thanked me for rushing it but also said he had not had time to look at it. When it is 600 pp. and the mail in which it went out was only two days prior to his receipt of it I believe him.

The debate was to have been taped by the college radio station. Had I not been promised this I had my own machine with me, was accompanied by Floyd Lesare because I required assistance, and I would have taped our comments.

Before I get into the purposes of this letter and based merely on the news accounts of Belin's appearance before your committee (Donovan had indicated he'd let me see transcripts but has not) Belin lied about the Warren Commission's knowledge of alleged CIA/Cuban plots against JFK. The files abound in various forms of them, I included them in my prepared remarks of which I can provide a copy. I published some in my first book, and Belin was without even pro forma denial.

With the record - his personal record - that I laid on Belin only a psycho would ~~have~~ have come apart or at least displayed anger and personal resentment. He merely smiled and lied and evaded until the pressure got stronger. Then he did two things about which I write.

One was to say that in your office he had been given access to a copy of Post Mortem at the time you and Donovan, the only people on the Hill who had copies, by one of you. Both of you knew it was embargoed and that I wanted him to have no knowledge of its contents until the confrontation. One of the uses he made of it was misuse. He appears to have used the thorough index to find references to himself and the Kennedy family. He then tried to get away with lying about the timing of the Tippett killing by direct quotation of Post Mortem as he said from having written down what he used in your offices. While it required time I needed for other purposes I was able to nail him on this. The writing is accurate. He lied, which is his normal behavior on this subject at least. Naturally, I did not like this partly because it represents a breach of trust and partly because it handicapped me in the purposes for which I wanted to confront him when a record was to have been made. (Students are investigating to try to get the tapes of some students who did tape the confrontation.)

However, what really outraged and angered me was his using information or misinformation he attributed to Mrs. Abzug with a specific intention that came out as one of the most obscene anti-Kennedy distorbes I have ever heard.